

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 34, 37 and 42 have been amended. Claims 6 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant and Applicant's undersigned attorneys would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephonic interview on October 13, 2006.

Applicant maintains that the claims as originally filed are patentable over the prior art of record. However, Applicant submits the following claim amendments without prejudice in response to the Interview Summary transmitted on October 13, 2006 and in view of the long pendency of the present application in the PTO. Applicant respectfully maintains the right to pursue the broader original claims as filed in a continuation application.

While not conceding any arguments or positions taken by the PTO in any of the Office Actions to date, the clarifying amendments to claims 1, 34, 37 and 42 put these respective claims in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, 34, 37 and 42 and their respective dependent claims are allowable as amended. A Notice of Allowance to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In addition, claim 14 has been rewritten to incorporate the claims from which it depends. Claim 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and have not been amended in view of the amendment to claim 14. As claims 14-16 were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form and claims 28-33 were found to be allowable at the interview, a Notice of Allowance to that effect is also earnestly solicited.

On the basis of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for immediate allowance, and notice to this effect is respectfully

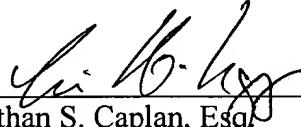
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requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorneys at the telephone number set forth below if it will assist in the allowance of this case.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 17, 2006

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